

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Steve Hayes, Area Management Biologist
Eric Newland, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, Alaska 99581
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2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #47 **Summer Announcement #41, District 2 Commercial Fishing Period #3** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate through July 10 is approximately 1.9 million fish which is above the historical median of 1.3 million fish for this date.

The preliminary commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 combined through July 9 is approximately 155,000 summer chum salmon.

Based on the current abundance of summer chum salmon, this announcement opens one commercial salmon fishing period in District 2. The area open to commercial fishing is being limited to only a portion of District 2 in which the incidental harvest rate of Chinook salmon is anticipated to be low.

District 2 Commercial (Pilot Station Slough Downstream): Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, until 12:00 midnight Wednesday, July 11. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon.

Only a portion of District 2 will be open to commercial fishing. The area open to commercial fishing will be down river of the slough at the community of Pilot Station to the District 1 and District 2 boundary line at the Anuk River. The limited area open to commercial fishing is due to the conservation concern for Chinook salmon above Pilot Station and to provide opportunity for a directed summer chum commercial fishery.

This commercial fishing period will overlap with the subsistence fishing period already scheduled to open this evening. Subsistence fishing in District 2 will be open for an 18-hour period from 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 11 until 2 p.m. Thursday, July 12.

No Chinook salmon can be sold in any summer chum commercial openings until further notice. Therefore, fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. All Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Fishermen are reminded that Chinook salmon caught must have both tips of the tail fin removed prior to concealing or removing the fish from the fishing grounds from June 1 to July 15.

Fishermen in Districts 1 and 2 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding changes to the subsistence salmon fishing schedules or commercial fishing periods in these districts.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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